

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0103] with the following paragraph:

[0103] The composite particles provide meaningful benefits, particularly when used as a cat litter, that include but are not limited to improvements in final product attributes such as odor control, litter box maintenance benefits, reduced dusting or sifting (composite particles of the present invention may have a dusting attrition value of at most about 15% as measured by ASTM method E-728 Standard Test Method for Resistance to Attrition of Granular Carriers and Granular Pesticides), and consumer convenience. As such, the following paragraphs shall discuss the composite absorbent particles in the context of animal litter, it being understood that the concepts described therein apply to all embodiments of the absorbent particles.